

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 46, 49, 61 and 66-72 are pending in this application. Claims 46, 49 and 66-72 have been allowed. Claim 61 was amended into independent format to include all of the limitations of the base claim, i.e. claim 30 and intervening claims, i.e. claim 55, in order to obtain an allowance of this claim. Claims 30, 31, 40-45, 47, 48, 50-60 and 62-65 have been deleted without prejudice, in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application.

It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added by virtue of this amendment. Support for amended claim 61 is found throughout the specification as originally filed.

II. 35 U.S.C. 112, Second Paragraph Rejections

The Examiner rejected claim 59 under 35 U.S.C 112, second paragraph as being indefinite on the grounds that the phrase "laser-like action" does not clearly define the feature the applicant is claiming.

In response, Applicants respectfully assert that in view of the current amendment canceling claim 59 without prejudice, the above rejection is now moot. Further, it is noted that cancellation of claim 59 was made for the sole purpose of expediting the prosecution of the present application and does not constitute an admission by the Applicants regarding the merits of the Examiner's rejection.

III. 35 U.S.C. 103(a) REJECTIONS

The Examiner has also rejected claims 30, 31, 40-45, 47, 48, 50-60 and 62-65 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) for the same reasons as set forth in the previous Office Action. In

addition, the Examiner objected to claim 61 for depending from a rejected base claim.

Initially Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 46, 49 and 66-72. Applicants further acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner indication that claim 61 would allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim, i.e. claim 30 and intervening claims, i.e. claim 55.

In response, claim 61 has been amended herewith to include all of the limitations of the base claim, i.e. claim 30 and intervening claims, i.e. claim 55. Applicants wish to state that this amendment was made for the sole purpose of expediting the prosecution of the present application. Thus, this amendment does not constitute an admission by the Applicants that any of the art cited by the Examiner in the instant Office Action either alone or in combination with one another teaches or suggests the features of prior claim 61 or the features of any of the claims canceled herewith.

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 61 is now in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the above objection to the claim 61 is therefore respectfully requested.

IV. CONCLUSION

In view of the actions taken, it is believed that all pending claims as currently presented are in condition for allowance. A notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

According to currently recommended Patent Office policy, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below in the event that a telephone interview will advance the prosecution of this application. An early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

No fees are believed due with this amendment. However, if there are any fees

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due, then please charge them to deposit account no.: 50-1924

Respectfully submitted,



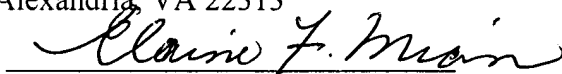
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